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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bernard BELLEAU et al.

Serial No. 09/760,380

Filed : January 16, 2001

For : PROCESS FOR PREPARING SUBSTITUTED 1,3-OXATHIOLANES WITH
ANTIVIRAL PROPERTIES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 13, 15, 21 and 26-34.

19. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the mercaptoacetaldehyde
is obtained from a mercaptoacetaldehyde dimer dissolved in an inert solvent.